



## COMMISSIONERS

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### **Press release:**

The Moffat County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is pleased to announce Moffat County has been selected as one of seven counties to attend a nationwide challenge to attend the National Association of Counties (NACo) Coal Reliant Communities Innovation Challenge Workshop.

NACo and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation along with support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration partnered to support county and regional leaders in coal-reliant communities with retooling their economies to become more resilient to changing conditions.

Throughout 2015, NACo and NADO Research Foundation will host three intensive, hands-on workshops designed to boost the innovation potential of coal-reliant counties and regions seeking to grow and diversify their economies. Each winning team is limited to six members. Moffat County's team members are: Frank Moe, County Commissioner; The City of Craig Mayor Elect; Jay Oxley, Craig/Moffat Economic Development Partnership Board Chair; John Rossfeld, Chief Executive Officer of The Memorial Hospital; Russell George, President of Colorado Northwestern Community College and Brent Curtice, Superintendent of Moffat County School District.

To enter the competition and complete the application the BOCC had two workshops prior to the application deadline to gather information and develop a survey for the team and had each team member individually give their answers, ideas, suggestions, goals and individual thoughts. Mindy Curtis, Moffat County Finance Director, was instrumental in the application process in compiling team member's responses along with her own as part of the application process.

With our local challenges with the federal and state overregulation of the coal industry in mining and coal fired power plants; this is a vital and necessary endeavor. We will continue to advocate and show support for our coal and energy industry partners while we diversify and strengthen our economy.

The team will be meeting with the numerous local economic entities and groups prior to the team's departure on April 21st. Our local economy, to achieve its possibilities, is welcoming input, cooperation, involvement and action from the entire community. This includes individuals, families, the county and all of its cities, towns, and communities, the Craig Chamber of Commerce, Craig/Moffat Economic Development Partnership, Downtown

Business Association, Moffat County School District, Moffat County Tourism Association, The Memorial Hospital, business professionals, retail, Colorado Northwestern Community College, FFA, DECA, 4H, real estate, agriculture, energy, transportation, manufacturing, art and humanities, Yampa Valley Data Partners, clubs, groups, organizations, and elected officials. The community is also encouraged to complete a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SVPN3YG>.

We are all in the same economic boat and when we row together in the same direction the local economic possibilities are truly limitless.

NACo website: [www.naco.org/InnovationChallenge](http://www.naco.org/InnovationChallenge)